Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 22 Feb 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 23 Feb 2023

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 21 Feb 2023 at 14:54

Confidence: High for some unsettled conditions mainly during the nights and prior to the weekend, then largely fair for the weekend, but lower for the cloud detail

Headline for Wednesday 22 Feb 2023: Brighter spells and scattered showers. Freezing level lowering.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 22 Feb 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Light rain	Light snow	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
70%	90%	80%	20%	10%	10%	10%	<05%

Forecast for Wednesday 22 Feb 2023

Weather: Band of light to moderate rain, perhaps wet snow across highest summits, feeding from the west overnight, with snow level lowering to 700m towards dawn, before clearing to a mix of bright and sunny spells and only a few light scattered showers early morning. Snow level in showers lowering 400-500m from mid-afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% at dawn, becoming 80-90% before mid-morning.

Low cloud and visibility: Good or very good, becoming moderate or poor in rain and showers, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases quite extensive from 500m at first, infrequently from after dawn.

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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 22 Feb 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	30/37 SW	31/38 S	24/30 NW	21/27 NW	19/26 NW	17/24 NW	20/26 N	22/29 N	26/34 N
600	26/35 SW	24/32 S	17/24 NW	17/24 NW	18/26 NW	16/23 NW	15/23 N	18/28 N	19/28 N
300	11/26 S	10/24 SW	9/21 NW	9/21 NW	11/23 NW	9/20 NW	6/19 N	8/22 N	9/24 N
Valley	12/25 S	11/24 SW	10/22 NW	9/19 NW	10/21 NW	8/17 NW	7/19 N	10/23 N	12/26 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	2/-5	2/-5	-1/-8	-1/-8	-2/-8	-1/-7	-1/-8	-2/-9	-2/-10
600	4/-2	4/-2	1/-5	1/-5	1/-5	2/-4	1/-5	-0/-6	-1/-7
300	5/2	5/2	3/-1	4/0	4/0	4/1	3/-0	2/-2	2/-2
Valley	7/4	7/4	5/2	6/3	6/3	7/4	6/3	5/1	4/0
Freezing Level*	1300m	1300m	800m	700m	600m	600m	600m	600m	500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Severe wind chill developing at height as freezing level lowers.

Forecast for Thursday 23 Feb 2023

Weather: Mainly dry, bright and sunny through the morning. Cloud slowly feeding from the north from the afternoon, bringing some patchy rain from late evening, with some wet snow over highest peaks.

Maximum wind: North 20 mph easing and veering west for the afternoon

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90% becoming 20% by late afternoon

Low cloud and visibility: Good or very good, becoming moderate or poor in later rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases becoming quite extensive from 500m during the evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 2 Celsius increasing 8 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Minus 3 Celsius increasing Zero Celsius by afternoon
Freezing level: 500m increasing 800m later

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 21 February 2023 Helvellyn summit at 11:25 Full report: This report comes with a health warning in that at the time of writing it is forecast that Tuesday night/Wednesday morning's precipitation could fall as snow above 700m so walkers out on the high fells on Wednesday could experience very different ground conditions to those experienced & described today. Should snow fall above 700m, it will mainly settle on bare, damp ground since the overwhelming majority of the Lakeland fells up to, and including, the highest summits are clear of snow and ice. The patches of snow that do still exist lie above 900m on steep north and east facing slopes. They have been thawing over the past 48 hours but only very slowly owing to both the snow's height and aspect. However, there's not much left to thaw and, owing to its location, most walkers will not encounter any snow at all. Indeed, the only snow left on any path in the Lake District is an insignificant, tiny amount on Swirral Edge's exit. Owing to the lack of winter conditions, and similar weather to Monday, the main hazards were once again wet, slippery rock underfoot (especially when in the cloud) and navigational difficulties caused by the low cloud with visibility down to 50m at times. Despite the appearance of daffodils in the valleys, the summit windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) around midday was below zero (at minus 5 degrees C) which combined with the precipitation within the cloud quickly chilled those without any additional clothing. Therefore full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass all remain essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. As mentioned earlier, walkers heading for the higher fells on Wednesday should also be prepared to encounter snow. Temperature: plus 2.8C , Maximum wind speed 27.24mph, Wind chill: minus 5.0C, Average wind speed: 23.1 mph.
Issued at: 1454 on Tue 21 Feb 2023

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